

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Sara Clark  
Phone: 733-5612

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**GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 18 NEW LEARN AND EARN SCHOOLS OPEN FOR FALL**  
*Three New Schools Open Today in Beaufort, Rowan and Vance Counties*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Mike Easley announced that 18 new *Learn and Earn* Schools will open across the state this fall. Three of the new schools, the Beaufort County Early College High School in Washington, the Rowan County Early College High School in Salisbury and the Vance County College High School in Henderson opened today.

“With 18 new schools opening this fall, more students than ever have a chance to attend a *Learn and Earn* school and earn a free associate’s degree or two years of college credit along with their high school diploma,” said Easley. “*Learn and Earn* and the EARN grants are the best thing to happen to education in a long time. These new schools are providing thousands of students the opportunity to get a free college education and prepare for successful in careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

The Beaufort County Early College High School is a partnership between Beaufort County Schools and Beaufort County Community College and will serve 200 students in grades 9 through 12. Students at the new school will follow a college preparatory curriculum and earn a high school diploma while completing an associate’s degree during this five year program. Students will attend class on the campus of Beaufort County Community College in Washington and will benefit from individualized programming, counseling, and interdisciplinary, project-based learning and community experiences.

The Rowan County Early College High School is a non-traditional high school designed to serve under-represented students such as first-generation college students. The school will integrate the high school and college experience, improve college preparedness, and provide a curriculum focused on rigorous coursework. Students will attend classes at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College’s North Campus in Salisbury and graduate with a high school diploma and two years of tuition-free college credit that can be transferred to any community college or public university in North Carolina.

The Vance County Early College High School, a partnership with Vance County Schools and Vance-Granville Community College, is located on the community college's Henderson campus. The school offers students a personalized, five-year educational program in which students can earn a high school diploma and an associate’s degree or two years of college transfer credit at no expense to its graduates. The school will provide individualized programming, counseling, and rigorous academics taught in a small school setting.

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